

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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2 1. (currently amended) A clamping plate assembly for movement  
3 laterally into and out of engagement with a load including in  
4 combination:

5 a main plate member having front, rear, upper and lower  
6 edges; an auxiliary plate overlying the main plate member and  
7 extending from the lower edge of the main plate member a  
8 predetermined distance toward the upper edge thereof and extending  
9 substantially from the rear edge of the main plate member to the  
10 front edge thereof, where the predetermined distance is a fraction  
11 of the distance between the lower and upper edges of the main plate  
12 member, with the auxiliary plate removably attached to the main  
13 plate member; and yieldable friction material over substantially  
14 the major portions of the auxiliary plate and the portion of the  
15 main plate member not covered by the auxiliary plate ;wherein the  
16 thickness of the yieldable friction materhal on the portion of the  
17 main plate member is greater than the thickness of the auxiliary  
18 plate; and the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the  
19 auxiliary plate is selected to cause the exposed surface of the  
20 yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate to be in the  
21 same plane as the exposed surface of the yieldable friction  
22 material on the main plate assembly.  
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1           2. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1  
2 wherein the yieldable friction material is selected to be made of  
3 resilient compressible material.

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5           3. (Original) A clamping plate according to Claim 2 wherein  
6 the yieldable friction material is a compressible rubber-like  
7 material.

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10          4. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 3  
11 wherein the yieldable friction material is bonded to the auxiliary  
12 plate and the portion of the main plate member not covered by the  
13 auxiliary plate.

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15          5. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 4  
16 wherein the yieldable friction material is a rubber-like material  
17 having a plurality of closed spaced grooves in it extending  
18 parallel to one another between the front and lower edges of the  
19 main plate member and substantially parallel to the upper and  
20 lower edges of the main plate member.

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22          6. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 5  
23 wherein the thickness of the yieldable friction material is between  
24 5/8" and 1 1/4" in the portions between the grooves therein.  
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1           7. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 6  
2 wherein the main plate member and the auxiliary plate are made of  
3 aluminum.

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5           8. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 7  
6 further including recessed bolts for removably attaching the  
7 auxiliary plate to the main plate member.  
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10          9. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 8  
11 wherein the auxiliary plate has a front edge and a rear edge, with  
12 the rear edge thereof substantially terminating in the same plane  
13 as the rear edge of the main plate member and the front edge of the  
14 auxiliary plate terminating a short distance from the front edge of  
15 the main plate member, and further including a wear resistant nose  
16 piece attached to the main plate member between the front edge  
17 thereof and the front edge of the auxiliary plate.  
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19  
20          10. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 9  
21 wherein the nose piece is made of wear resistant material.  
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1           11. (Original) The clamping plate assembly according to Claim  
2 9 wherein the nose piece is made of aluminum with the front edge  
3 thereof tapering from the front edge of the main plate member  
4 outwardly from the main plate member to a surface located in a  
5 plane parallel to the main plate member.  
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8           12. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 11  
9 wherein the thickness of the combination of the auxiliary plate and  
10 the yieldable friction material thereon is greater than the maximum  
11 thickness of the nose piece.  
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13           13. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 12  
14 wherein the auxiliary plate and the nose piece are removably  
15 attached to the main plate member with countersunk bolts, the  
16 exposed heads thereof being below the exposed surfaces of the  
17 auxiliary plate and the nose piece.  
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20           14. (Cancelled)  
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1           15. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim  
2 1 wherein the auxiliary plate has a front edge and a rear edge,  
3 with the rear edge thereof substantially terminating in the same  
4 plane as the rear edge of the main plate member and the front edge  
5 of the auxiliary plate terminating a short distance from the front  
6 edge of the main plate member, and further including a wear  
7 resistant nose piece attached to the main plate member between the  
8 front edge thereof and the front edge of the auxiliary plate.  
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11           16. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 15  
12 wherein the nose piece is made of wear resistant material.  
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14           17. (Original) The clamping plate assembly according to Claim  
15 16 wherein the nose piece is made of aluminum with the front edge  
16 thereof tapering from the front edge of the main plate member  
17 outwardly from the main plate member to a surface located in a  
18 plane parallel to the main plate member.  
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20  
21           18. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim  
22 17 wherein the thickness of the combination of the auxiliary plate  
23 and the yieldable friction material thereon is greater than the  
24 maximum thickness of the nose piece.  
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1           19. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 18  
2 wherein the auxiliary plate and the nose piece are removably  
3 attached to the main plate member with countersunk bolts, the  
4 exposed heads thereof being below the exposed surfaces of the  
5 auxiliary plate and the nose piece.  
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8           20. (Cancelled)  
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10           21. (Currently amended) A clamping plate assembly according to  
11 Claim ~~20~~ 19 wherein the yieldable friction material is a rubber-  
12 like material having a plurality of closed spaced grooves in it  
13 extending parallel to one another between the front and lower edges  
14 of the main plate member and substantially parallel to the upper  
15 and lower edges of the main plate member.  
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17  
18           22. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 21  
19 wherein the thickness of the yieldable friction material is between  
20 5/8" and 1 1/4" in the portions between the grooves therein.  
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22           23. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1  
23 wherein the main plate member and the auxiliary plate are made of  
24 aluminum.  
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1           24. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1  
2 wherein the yieldable friction material is bonded to the auxiliary  
3 plate and the portion of the main plate member not covered by the  
4 auxiliary plate.

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6           25. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1  
7 further including recessed bolts for removably attaching the  
8 auxiliary plate to the main plate member.  
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11           26. (Cancelled)  
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13           27. (Currently amended) A clamping plate assembly for movement  
14 laterally into and out of engagement with a load including in  
15 combination:  
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17           a main rectangular plate member having front, rear, upper  
18 and lower edges; an auxiliary plate overlying the main plate member  
19 and extending from the lower edge of the main plate member a short  
20 distance toward the upper edge thereof and extending substantially  
21 from the rear edge of the main plate member to the front edge  
22 thereof, the short distance being a minor portion of the distance  
23 between the lower and upper edges of the main backing plate member  
24 and with the auxiliary plate removably attached to the main plate  
25 member; and yieldable friction material attached to and covering  
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1 substantially the major portion of the auxiliary plate and the  
2 portion of the main plate member not covered by the auxiliary  
3 plate; and a wear resistant nose piece attached to the main plate  
4 member between the front edge thereof and the front edge of the  
5 auxiliary plate wherein the auxiliary plate and the nose piece are  
6 removably attached to the main plate member with countersunk bolts,  
7 the exposed heads thereof being below the exposed surfaces of the  
8 auxiliary plate and the nose piece.  
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11 28. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27  
12 wherein the yieldable friction material is selected to be made of  
13 resilient compressible material.  
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16 29. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 28  
17 wherein the yieldable friction material is a rubber-like material  
18 having a plurality of closed spaced grooves in it extending  
19 parallel to one another between the front and lower edges of the  
20 main plate member and substantially parallel to the upper and  
21 lower edges of the main plate member.  
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23  
24 30. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 29  
25 wherein the thickness of the yieldable friction material is between  
26 3/8" and 1 1/4" in the portions between the grooves therein.



1 31. (Cancelled)

2 32. (Currently amended) A clamping plate assembly according to  
3 Claim ~~31~~ 30 wherein the nose piece is made of wear resistant  
4 material.

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6 33. (Cancelled)

7 34. (Cancelled)

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10 35. (Original) A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27  
11 wherein the yieldable friction material is bonded to the auxiliary  
12 plate and the portion of the main plate member not covered by the  
13 auxiliary plate.  
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